

## Prince Michael International Road Safety Award!

The IRTE National Road Safety Awards were instituted in 2000 to acknowledge extraordinary contributions by individuals and organizations towards development of a positive road culture in traffic management and road safety in India. The Prince Michael International Road Safety Award recognizes achievements and innovations for improvement in road safety. It was instituted in 1987 to recognize those who have made outstanding achievements and innovations worldwide. The awards were combined in 2002.

### Congratulations!

Dr. Adnan A. Hyder, MD MPH PhD (Vice Chair: RTIRN) and on behalf of NIMHANS Dr.G.Gururaj (Board Member, RTIRN) and Dr. D. Nagarajah (Director: NIMHANS) received the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award 2007.

The awarding ceremony was held on 12th January 2007, at the Road Safety Education for Developing Countries International Conference in New Delhi, India. Please join us in congratulating them in their achievement.

Also, Prof. Radin Umar PhD, PEng, PCM, PASC. (Board member; RTIRN) was awarded the Prince Michael International Road Safety Award in 2006. Please join us in congratulating him.

## Recent RTI Publications

[Dharmaratne SD, Stevenson M](#)

**Public road transport crashes in a low income country**

Inj Prev. 2006; 12(6): 417-20

[Christensen-Rand E, Hyder AA, Baker T.](#)

**Road traffic deaths in the Middle East: call for action.**

BMJ. 2006 Oct 21;333(7573):860.

[Li YH, Rahim Y, Lu W, Song GX, Yan Y, De DZ, Zhang SN, Zhou SF, Chen SM, Yang BJ.](#)

**Field data: a study on trend and prediction of fatal traffic injuries prevalence in Shanghai.**

Traffic Inj Prev. 2006 Dec;7(4):403-7.

[Hyder AA, Labinjo M, Muzaffar SS.](#)

**A new challenge to child and adolescent survival in urban Africa: an increasing burden of road traffic injuries.**

Traffic Inj Prev. 2006 Dec;7(4):381-8



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road research  
The Newsletter of the Road Traffic Injuries Research Network

## A message from the RTIRN Board Chair

Dear colleagues and friends

Welcome to 2007.

Last year was a busy one for the Network, as evidenced by our latest newsletter reporting on the skills development workshop in Cairo as well as the first meeting of collaborators involved in the Multi-centre Collaborative Study on non-standard motorcycle helmets, held in Kuala Lumpur. Given the success of the workshop in Cairo and indeed the workshop held earlier in the year in Kandy, Sri Lanka, we hope to offer more skills development workshops in the coming year, in collaboration with local partners. We also anticipate that by the end of the year we will be able to report back to you all, on at least some of the findings of the collaborative study.

As also outlined in the newsletter, we are proud to congratulate several of our Board members whose contributions to the field of road traffic injuries research has been internationally recognized. I would additionally like to congratulate Professor Ir Radin Umar RS who has been appointed as Foundation Director General of the newly created Malaysian Institute of Road Safety (MIROS) – this is a very significant achievement placing Professor Radin in a unique position to implement important policy initiatives aimed at reducing road traffic injuries in Malaysia as well as being a potential model for other countries in the region.

The coming year brings with it some potential changes for the organization. While it was only a year ago that we launched our secretariat in Sri Lanka, the process for identifying a new secretariat, to take us into the next two year phase of development has already begun. We started working with the current secretariat almost two years ago and so it is timely, in the spirit of building capacity globally that we have extended our call for expressions of interest to all our partners for the next phase. The task of hosting the secretariat is a very important role for the Network and clearly provides benefits both to the Network and to the host organization. However, there are significant responsibilities associated with the task. We truly hope, nevertheless, that one of our partners will rise to the challenge offered by this opportunity. Please feel free to contact myself or the Vice-Chair, or indeed any of our Board members if you would like to discuss this opportunity – while details of the call for EOI were circulated to all those on the list-serve, these details can be accessed at anytime from our website ([www.rtirn.net](http://www.rtirn.net)).

Lastly, I am sure that all of you are aware that the last week in April is a significant week for all concerned about road safety. The First United Nations Global Road Safety week is being held from 23-29 April. Please go to <http://www.who.int/roadsafety/week/en/index.html> to learn more about what is planned and indeed how you and your colleagues might contribute. We look forward to reporting on the events of that week in future issues of the newsletter.

In the interim, on behalf of the Board, I wish you all the best for the coming year.

Robyn Norton

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## Workshop on “Skills Development for Research on Road Traffic Injuries (RTIs)”, Cairo, Egypt

This workshop was held in conjunction with the Forum 10 in Cairo Egypt. 109 participants attended this meeting from different countries including Egypt, Pakistan, Australia, New Zealand, USA, UAE, Qatar, Nigeria, Sri Lanka and India.



The speakers in the first session focused on the global burden of RTIs, where globally more than one million people die annually and 20 to 50 million people are injured on the roads according to WHO report in 2004. Almost 90% of them occur in low and middle income countries, costing the nations around the world US 518 billion, and in terms of the percentage of the countries GDP, it is estimated to cost the low income, middle income and high income countries 1%, 1.5% and 2% of their GDP respectively. The cost in Egypt was estimated to be 2.5% of the GDP, in UAE 2-3% of the GDP and in the Middle East 1.5% of the GDP.

It was stressed that RTIs has social, economic, political, emotional issues; yet limited resources are allocated to address this problem in this part of the world. There are many problems faced by researchers including poor data records, insufficient funds, lack of communication, co-operation and co-ordination



In the second session, the presenters talked about the ways to identify a good research question. Important characteristics that should be in a good research question were highlighted including the relevance, feasibility, cultural acceptability and clarity.

Important principles required for a successful grant application were discussed in the next session. They included; following the instructions of the donor, writing a clear proposal and seeking advice from colleagues who were successful at a previous attempt. During this session a case study from Egypt, was discussed which highlighted how the title of a proposal can influence the success of obtaining funds.

In the next session, a comprehensive overview of the ethical aspects of research was discussed, which emphasized the importance of ethical approval for any research, which was shown to be a protective mechanism for both the researcher and the participant.

The closing session included the summary of the workshop. At the end of the workshop, the organizing committee thanked all the participants for their valuable contribution and for their attendance and was followed by an open buffet.

This (the third) “Skills Development Workshop for Research on RTIs” organized by the RTIRN succeeded in bringing together leading experts in the field of RTI prevention in the EMRO region and in Egypt and engaging them in discussions about challenges and strategies. The workshop was able to reach the following outcomes;

- Increased engagement and establishment of partnerships with RTI researchers in the EMRO region and Egypt,
- Capacity development of RTI researchers in this region,
- Improving networking and sharing of information among RTI researchers,

Continued..

- Increased partnership and awareness of the RTIRN
- Important characteristics that should be in a good research question including relevance, feasibility, cultural acceptability, clarity were highlighted.

Workshop presentations can be accessed in RTIRN website. [www.rtirn.net](http://www.rtirn.net)

## Multi-Center Study (MCS) on “Facilitating reductions on non-standard helmet use”

RTIRN together with University Putra Malaysia organized a two-day workshop on a Multi-Centre Study on “Facilitating Reductions in Non-Standard Motorcycle Helmet Use” from 12-13 December 2006 in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The study will be conducted in 10 middle and low-income countries. Selected Centers were represented either by their principal investigator or a team member at this workshop. RTIRN board members facilitated the workshop. The workshop covered the following areas; roadside survey, study design, study population, recruitment of participants, data collection, study instruments, data management, analysis, market survey of helmet costs, legislation and enforcement. Ethical approvals, timelines and contracts were also covered in this workshop. The study will be conducted during 2007 with the final report to be produced by the end of 2007.

### Partner Profile: Dr. Kulanthayan K.C. Mani

University Putra, Malaysia ■



The RTIRN is pleased to introduce Dr. Kulanthayan K.C. Mani, Director, Co-ordinating Centre, MCS on “Facilitating reductions in non-standard motorcycle helmet use”. Dr Mani graduated with a Bachelor of Science (Honours) degree from University Pertanian Malaysia (UPM) in Resource Economics in 1995.

He completed his Master of Science in Transport Planning in 1997 at University Technology of Malaysia (UTM), Skudai, Johor and proceeded to a Doctoral Degree in the field of Transport Engineering at University Putra Malaysia, Serdang, Selangor and graduated in the year 2002.

At present, he is attached to the Department of Community Health, Faculty of Medicine and Health Sciences, University Putra Malaysia as a lecturer. He has been working in the field of road safety since 1997. He has been mainly carrying out evaluation studies of road safety interventions for the National Road Safety Council of Malaysia. He also sits in various sub-committees of the National Road Safety Council’s activities. He was appointed as the local consultant by the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to prepare the Road Safety Status and Road Accident report for Malaysia. Join us in congratulating him and wishing him success in the MCS.

### UN ROAD TRAFFIC SAFETY WEEK RESEARCH WEBINARS SCHEDULE 26th April 2007

9.00AM to 10.00 AM

Epidemiologic study of traffic crash injuries in Serbia : Predrag Duric, Injury Prevention Research Center University of Iowa

Open slot

4.00 PM to 5.00 PM

Motorcycle helmet research in Vietnam: Dang Viet Hung, The George Institute for International Health

Motorcycle injury prevention research in Malaysia: Nhan Tran, Johns Hopkins School of Public Health, Department of International Health

For further information, log on to:  
<http://www.circl.pitt.edu/home/seminars.htm>

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